

Application No.: 10/695,657

Amendment dated: January 17, 2006

Reply to Office Action of October 17, 2005

Attorney Docket No.: 21295.0069US1 (H5747US)

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

a.) Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A comparison optical system comprising:
  - two macrosopes,
  - a bridge which couples the macrosopes mechanically and optically to one another,
  - an XYZ stage associated with each macroscope for placing a sample thereon,
  - an illumination system for specimens placed on the XYZ stage, and
  - an attachment device for the illumination system is connected to each macroscope, wherein each attachment device has a plurality of movable arms and an adjustable holder for a light source, wherein at least one scale is disposed on each movable arm; and  
a personal computer associated with the comparison optical system for storing optimal illumination conditions established for examination, the optimal illumination conditions determined based on the values of at least one scale and stored in a file together with image data of the specimens to be compared, wherein the stored values of at least one scale are retrieved together with the image data.
2. (Previously Presented) The comparison optical system as defined in Claim 1, wherein each macrosope encompasses a rotatable ring to which a first arm of the plurality of movable arms is attached.
3. (Previously Presented) The comparison optical system as defined in Claim 2, wherein the rotatable ring is equipped with a scale and a locking screw immobilizing the rotatable ring.

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4. (Previously Presented) The comparison optical system as defined in Claim 2, wherein the first arm has an end opposite the rotatable ring, and a first clamping apparatus guiding a second arm equipped with a scale.
  
5. (Previously Presented) The comparison optical system as defined in Claim 4, wherein a second clamping apparatus is disposed on the second arm opposite the first clamping apparatus, in which the second arm and a third arm are guidable perpendicular to one another; and a holder for an illumination system is mounted opposite the second clamping apparatus.
  
6. (Original) The comparison optical system as defined in Claim 5, wherein the holder is rotatable about an axis perpendicular to a rotation axis of the rotatable ring and perpendicular to the third arm.
  
7. (Original) The comparison optical system as defined in Claim 6, wherein the holder is equipped with a scale.
  
8. (Canceled)
  
9. (Canceled)
  
10. (Previously Presented) The comparison optical system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the exit end of a light guide serves as the light source, the light incidence onto the specimens being determined by the values of at least one scale on the attachment element.

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11. (Previously Presented) The comparison optical system as defined in Claim 10, wherein the light source is connected to a personal computer and receives control signals therefrom.

12. (Previously Presented) The comparison optical system as defined in Claim 1, wherein the positions of the XYZ stages, the intensity of the light source, and the position of a revolving nosepiece are stored in a file provided in a personal computer, and wherein those values are retrieved from the file in order to adjust one or two macrosopes.